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Service update: Singapore bunker supplier 'Panoil Petroleum' has bunker craft license revoked

Applicability: Ship owners and operators

The Maritime Authority of Singapore (MPA) reported to the media on Monday 14th August 2017 that they have revoked the bunker craft operator license of Panoil Petroleum Pte Ltd (Panoil).

The case first came to light in March this year when the MPA suspended five Panoil operated barges sighting irregularities with piping fixtures pending further investigation and issued the following statement: "MPA will not hesitate to take action against any bunkering malpractices in the port of Singapore. Any licensee found to have contravened any terms and conditions of the license will have their licenses either suspended or cancelled".

MPA checks are reported to have revealed that unauthorised alterations were made between the Mass Flow Meter (MFM) and the flow boom onboard these bunker tankers. This allowed bunker fuel that had been measured by the MFM to be siphoned out, undermining the accuracy of the meter readings from the MFM system which breached the terms and conditions of bunker craft operator license.

The use of MFMs for fuel oil supplies has been mandated in Singapore since 1st January 2017 by MPA and they will continue with their checks on bunker tankers to ensure compliance with mass flow meter regulations are strictly adhered to.

One of the key roles of the independent bunker surveyor is to check the integrity of the MFM piping fixtures as specified in Technical Reference for Bunker Mass Flow Metering (TR 48).

Even with MFM technology in use, this case underlines the importance of appointing a reputable bunker surveyor who can inspect the bunker barge lines for any irregularities and report to the authorities immediately if the need arises in addition to cross checking the seal verification report, inspecting the seals and taking MFM readings.

If you require any further information about this Bulletin, please contact us at fobas@lr.org or speak to one of our consultants on +44 (0)330 414 1000 (Southampton UK), +44 (0)1642 440991 (Redcar UK) +65 3163 0888 (Singapore), +30 210 4580 932 (Greece)